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Mary McCarron, assistant town clerk for Duxbury, admires a mural painted by Duxbury High School students that will serve as a backdrop for meetings in the new conference room in the basement of town hall.

A lasting legacy of art

Students create mural for selectmen's chamber

By John Chaffee
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DUXBURY — Thirty-eight high school students have made a lasting impression in town hall.

Over the past few months, the students designed and painted a 20-foot-long mural for the wall behind the selectmen in the new windowless basement meeting room.

The mural, which was painted at Duxbury High School in four 5-by-5-foot sections, was installed at town hall last week and unveiled at the selectmen's meeting Monday night.

"It's lovely," said Assistant Town Clerk Mary McCarron, who got her first glimpse of the mural yesterday morning. "It really brightens up a room that had been very sterile."

The mural depicts an imagined 1840 scene of Duxbury Bay, viewed from the kitchen of the King Caesar House on Powder Point.

Included in the scene is a square-rigged ship and a two-masted schooner on the bay, a horse and wagon passing by and a near life-size couple holding hands and looking out to sea.

"What a nice thing you did for your hometown," Selectman Margaret Kearney said to the students who attended the unveiling. "You can come back and look

Duxbury

at it years in the future."

"Wow," said Selectmen Chairman Andre Martecchini when the mural was unveiled.

"When I was a high school student many years ago," he said, "art was not an important subject. But now, it's just amazing some of the artwork that's going on in our schools."

The mural, entitled "Ship Gazing: 1840 Duxbury Bay," was designed, sketched and painted by juniors and seniors in the high school's advanced placement studio art classes.

Under the direction of Virginia Freyer-muth, art coordinator for the Duxbury school system and 1996 Massachusetts teacher of the year, the art students spent the last three months working on the mural.

Two seniors, Alexandra and Nicole Loverso, devoted full time to the mural during their final term as their senior project.

Corinne Vigilante, a junior, chaired the design committee.

The idea of painting a mural for the back wall of the meeting room was

suggested to Freyer-muth last year by Town Manager Rocco Longo.

Shortly after being named town manager four years ago, Longo proposed converting storage space in the town hall basement into a new meeting room for the selectmen.

Before the selectmen began using it for their weekly meetings earlier this year, they met in cramped quarters that also served as office space on the second floor of town hall.

Now the room is being used by town boards and committees on nights the selectmen aren't meeting.

In addition to the Loverso twins, seniors who worked on the mural were: Kristen Branch, Matt Daly, Alicia Escott, Alexander Kominski, Christopher Plant, Jessica Smith, Michael Stanfill, Brittany Basinski, Geoff Grinnell, Sean Gillespie, Derek McCarty, Eric Murphy and Matthew Powers.

Juniors, in addition to Vigilante, were: Lindsey Asack, Marissa Gomer, Deirdre Leonard, Robert Lim, Erin MacMillan, Lindsey O'Neil, Rebecca Smith, Lauren Arkema, Laurie Driscoll, Maria Fenwick, Carrie Fontaine, Tedra Heidenreich, Elizabeth Hoy, Ashley Johnson, John Miskella, Karie Titus, Cameron Duffy, Laurielea Drury, Candi Fredericks, Matthew Leary, Richard Lim and Stacy Potkin.